

state. So every time a vacancy is created, there will be a judgment made as to whether or not it is necessary to fill that vacancy with another judge in that location, second, whether that vacancy should be moved some place else in the state where there is a greater need for judicial resources or, finally, whether that vacancy can simply be allowed to lapse. An example of a possible lapsing situation, for instance, is Omaha where due to reorganization we now have 11 county judges, and it may very well be three years or six years from now that caseload, that work load can be handled by 9 or 10 county judges. So this procedure will automatically set in an efficiency whereby every judgeship, at the cost of about \$100,000 a year to Nebraskans, will not have to automatically be filled regardless of need. I think it makes a great deal of sense. I think it is a good compromise. I know Senator Barrett and Senator Baack may wish to address this proposal. I would ask the adoption of this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Sieck, then Senator Abboud.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I want to ask Senator Hoagland a question. If we have a vacancy in a district where there is only one judge, will we be assured that that one judge...we will get a replacement for that judge with the commission as it is set up today or will we lose and merge in another district?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Senator Sieck, there will be no district merging. The bill does not allow any merging. If your county right now, along with surrounding counties, has two county judges and you only need one to handle the work load, you may lose one of those county judges but you will not lose all your county judges. The bill requires that every county be served by a county judge at a minimum.

SENATOR SIECK: How about the district court?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: The same. Every county will continue to be served by a district judge. What the bill does allow though is a review as to whether there is sufficient caseload to require that every position be replaced.

SENATOR SIECK: Okay, then if they find that the district judge in that particular area and the county judge could take care of all the court load, we wouldn't have a district